GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:335
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2004
ERADICATION OF LEPROSY
Chandel Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of leprosy patients in the country at present;

(b) whether the number of leprosy patients has increased in the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to prevent this disease; and

(d) the extent of success achieved due to the steps taken by the Government to eradicate this disease?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) The estimated number of leprosy patients in the country as on 31st March, 2004 was 2.66 lakhs.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The country is making steady and satisfactory progress towards the goal of achieving elimination of leprosy i.e to bring down the prevalence rate of leprosy to below 1 case per 10,000 population. As against the prevalence rate of 57.6 in 1981 the prevalence rate has come down to 2.4 per 10,000 population as on 1st April, 2004. 17 States/UTs have so far achieved the level of leprosy elimination i.e. < 1 case/ 10,000 population and another 7 States/UTs are having a prevalence rate between 1 and 2 and are, thus, very close to achieving the above goal. Leprosy services have now been integrated with the general health care services and leprosy diagnostic and curative services are available in all Government health institutes on all working days of the week.